

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8165

STADIS//////////

FOR INSPECTOR GENERAL FROM MCBRIDE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, OBGEN

SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF ARA/LA

1. WITH REGARD TO THE REFERENCE MESSAGE, I BELIEVE THAT THIS POST HAS CONSISTENTLY RECEIVED ADEQUATE POLICY GUIDANCE FROM ARA. WE RECEIVE A STEADY FLOW OF MATERIAL, BOTH CLASSIFIED AND FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, WHICH MAKES CLEAR THE OVERALL US POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA. THIS IS NECESSARY AT THIS POST BECAUSE OF THE INCREASING ROLE OF LEADERSHIP WHICH MEXICO SEEMS DESIROUS OF PLAYING IN THE HEMISPHERE DURING THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION. I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THAT I AM IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OTHER OFFICIALS AS WELL AS WITH THE MEDIA US POLICIES ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL WHICH HAS BEEN SUPPLIED BY ARA.

2. IN MEXICO ACTIVITIES OF OTHER AGENCIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN CERTAIN INSTANCES: FOR EXAMPLE, DEA IN RECENT TIMES. I BELIEVE THAT ARA HAS MADE A STEADY AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER AGENCIES WHICH HAVE MAJOR PROGRAMS IN MEXICO AND ALWAYS TO DIRECT THESE ACTIVITIES IN A DIRECTION CONSISTENT WITH OUR OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVES IN MEXICO. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS AN EXAGGERATION TO STATE THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP

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WITH MEXICO IS A KEY ONE BOTH FOR GEOGRAPHIC REASONS

AND BECAUSE OF THE GROWING ROLE OF MEXICO IN THE HEMISPHERE AND PERHAPS IN AN INCIPIENT FASHION IN THE WORLD BEYOND LATIN AMERICA. THEREFORE SATISFACTORY GENERAL POLICY GUIDANCE IS MOST IMPORTANT AND DURING THE MORE THAN FOUR YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN AT THIS POST, I BELIEVE THAT ARA HAS DONE A FINE JOB IN THIS CONTEXT.

3. THE BACKSTOPPING OF OUR OPERATIONS BY ARA IN GENERAL AND ARA/MEX IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN GENERALLY EXCELLENT AND I WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED IN RECENT MONTHS AS PARTICULARLY GOOD. NATURALLY THE TASK IS NOT SIMPLE BECAUSE OF THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO. HOWEVER ARA HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN AN EXCELLENT AND EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER ALL THE AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON WHICH HAVE AN INTEREST HERE AND CHANNEL THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE DIRECTION CONSONANT WITH OUR GENERAL POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS INCLUDES ALL OF THE TRADITIONAL AGENCIES SUCH AS COMMERCE, LABOR AND AGRICULTURE - THE LAST-NAME PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT HERE - AND MORE RECONDITE AGENCIES SUCH AS THE WEATHER BUREAU, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ETC., NOT TO MENTION THE NEW ORGANIZATIONS LIKE EPA WHICH ARE VERY ACTIVE HERE.

4. I BELIEVE, PARTICULARLY IN RECENT MONTHS, THAT THE POST HAD ALWAYS HAD THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE ITS OPINIONS AND DECISIONS. FURTHERMORE IN SPITE OF THE RELATIVELY HEAVY DEMAND WHICH WE HAVE PLACED ON THE BUREAU, WE HAVE BEEN KEPT PROMPTLY INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE ON MATERIAL WHICH WE NEEDED WHETHER IT BE OF A POLICY NATURE OR CONCERNING MORE MUNDANE MATTERS SUCH AS VISITS (INNUMERABLE AT THIS POST), FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS OR THE MANY OTHER DAY-TO-DAY ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICO.

5. YOU WILL BE AWARE THERE IS NO AID PROGRAM IN MEXICO SO THAT WE DO NOT HAVE REGULAR CONTACT WITH ARA ON AID MATTERS.
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